

Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights

Informal Session and Special Session
Geneva, April 18-20, 2013

ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The annex to this document introduces a non-governmental organization which has requested to obtain observer status for the sessions of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), in accordance with the Committee's regulations (see paragraph 10 of document SCCR/1/2).

2. The SCCR is invited to approve the representation, at Committee sessions, of the non-governmental organization mentioned in the annex to this document.

[Annex follows]

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS REQUESTED OBSERVER STATUS
FOR SESSIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS
(SCCR)

Alawite Organization for the Promotion of the Blind in Morocco (OAPAM)

The Alawite Organization for the Promotion of the Blind in Morocco (OAPAM) is a State-approved association, presided over by Princess Lalla Lamia Solh. Set up in 1967, and governed by its statutes and the provisions of Dahir No. 11-58-3-76-10, OAPAM is a State-approved non-governmental organization, the aim of which is to demonstrate by means of numerous activities and events, the capacity of an educated blind or partially sighted person to be able to assume an active role in society, in the same way as his/her fellow citizens. As a result of significant efforts, OAPAM now has 13 specialized education institutions throughout the national territory, and has a total of almost 1,000 students. These specialized institutions provide teaching material, print school text books in braille, and cover all accommodation and food-related expenses. The self-development activities on offer include theatre, music and various cultural and sporting activities. OAPAM has an important pre-training center for the blind and partially sighted in Temara. A number of development courses are on offer there so that blind and partially sighted people with school-leaving qualifications may subsequently join training centers for non-disabled people in physiotherapy professions and call centers. Different training sessions are organized for teaching staff in order to make the training of blind and partially sighted persons as useful as possible. Access to information is the key to social and professional integration. Modern technology allows visually impaired persons to identify and assimilate what is of interest to them among the abundance of information produced on a daily basis. Successful integration requires access to all topical issues as well as the possibility to deal with them using the same tools as non-disabled persons. These tools are audible, palpable or displayed in large print on screens. Aware of the essential interest of IT tools, OAPAM has equipped the IT rooms in its institutes with computers and sound synthesis software, methods of reading books and any printed material, even via the Internet. These forms of aid and interfaces allow visually impaired persons to access information and information technology without restriction. By encouraging the partially sighted and blind people it has taken charge of to assume more responsibility, and through the involvement and support of various national bodies, OAPAM has been rewarded for its efforts. To date, more than 1,500 partially sighted and blind people have been employed in the public and private sectors, and have done well in certain complex professions which offer no ready access, such as those of lawyers, masseurs, physiotherapists or teachers. Already present on the international stage and recognized by the main international organizations for the promotion of the blind and partially sighted persons, OAPAM is an active member of: the World Blind Union (WBU), the French-Speaking Blind Union (UFA), the African Union of the Blind (AFUB), and is a delegate member of the AFUB Secretariat.

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